

# Bible Study Resource

## A Sojourner's Guide

1 Peter 1:17-21

*"... conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your temporary residence"*  
(1 Peter 1:17b, HCSB).

As Christians, we often approach God with love and praise. We approach Him with boldness seeking help in our time of need. We approach Him in confession, knowing He freely forgives. Yet, Peter instructs us, as sojourners, to approach God with reverence and address Him with fear. What does this attitude look like in your life? How do you conduct yourself in the fear of the Lord? Let's examine two encounters and discover the value of relating to God in an attitude of reverent fear.

### **Paul Encounters God Our Father** – 2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Galatians 4:4-7

In this passage, God gives Paul a special blessing by allowing him to see the third heaven. Then God sends difficulty into his life. Paul boldly turns to his good, good Father for help, but His answer is, "no." God is at work in the midst of Paul's suffering, accomplishing His perfect will through Paul's weakness. And through suffering, Paul discovers a greater depth of the wisdom and knowledge of God. He discovers tremendous value in his own weakness and a profound and fearful trust in God's strength. What blessings has God given you, and how do these blessings affect your relationship with Him? What are you learning during difficult times in your life when God's answer is, "no?" How is God at work in you as you encounter difficult situations? What is He teaching you about the value of a reverent fear in the presence of Father God?

### **Isaiah Encounters God Our Judge** – Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 86:8-11

Isaiah's profound encounter with God forever changes his awareness and understanding of the Almighty. The vivid reality of the throne room of Heaven transforms his mind, enabling him to realize the stark truth of his need for forgiveness and his position as God's obedient servant. When you encounter God, how are you transformed? How does God make you aware of your sin, and what is your response to this awareness? How does God make you aware of the areas in your life where He is calling you to serve, and how do you respond to His call?

### **How Do You Encounter God?**

Philippians 2:5-16, Psalm 25:12-15, Psalm 34:7-11

Encountering God is so much more than a Sunday morning activity. God invites us into His presence through praise and worship at church. He invites us to grow in the knowledge of Him through the preaching and teaching of the Word. Our Sunday morning services are designed to usher you into the presence of God, allowing Him to produce change in you; but it is only one of many ways to encounter God. God expects us to live in His presence in a lifestyle of prayer and worship. He expects us to constantly grow into a greater knowledge of Him as we daily read and study His Word. How are you growing in this lifestyle? How are you working in moments of prayer and praise into your daily routine? What are you doing to develop a fearful and disciplined pursuit of the Lord?